

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-13, 29, 30 and 34-50 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45 and 48 amended herein in order to more clearly define and fully protect Applicants' invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims 1, 3-13, 29, 30 and 34-50 is respectfully requested.

The amendments made to the claims herein make more clear the fact that, in referring to "flexible graphite sheets," Applicants mean sheets of compressed particles of exfoliated graphite. This is made clear in the specification at, *inter alia*, pages 5 and 6. However, it is recognized that the term "flexible graphite," as used and understood in the art may not be entirely clear to one not of ordinary skill in the relevant art. Thus, for the sake of clarity, the term has been replaced with the expression "compressed particles of exfoliated graphite."

In addition, the amendments made herein specify that, in referring to different "zones," Applicants are referring to distinct sheets of compressed particles of exfoliated graphite in the inventive composite.

In the Office Action mailed April 21, 2005, claims 28, 32, 36-38 and 51 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, which was done in the response filed July 21, 2005 (the cover sheet of which was incorrectly dated March 21, 2005). However, in the outstanding Office Action, the indication of allowability of

claims 28 and 51 is withdrawn in view of the newly-found patent to Feldman et al. (U.S. 5,622,774).

However, the relevance of Feldman et al. to the invention of the above-captioned application is not fully understood. The cited Feldman et al. patent relates to a composite of a plurality of woven materials, one of which can be formed of graphite, although there is no mention or citation in Feldman et al. of the use of compressed particles of exfoliated graphite. Nothing in Feldman et al. bears any resemblance or relevance to a composite article of a plurality of sheets of compressed particles of exfoliated graphite, where at least some of the sheets have distinct characteristics, where the composite may include either a non-porous or foraminous material.

Quite simply, the skilled artisan would not be lead to Feldman et al. and, even if aware of Feldman et al., would not be led to the inclusion of a foraminous material in a compioste of sheets of compressed particles of exfoliated graphite. Thus, claims 1, 29 and 39 (and claims depending therefrom) are indeed allowable as previously indicated, and allowance thereof is requested.

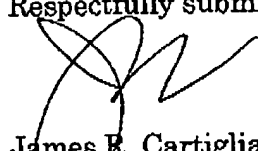
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed the above-captioned application is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly sought. If

there remains any matter which prevents the allowance of any of pending claims 1, 3-13, 29, 30 and 34-50, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned, collect, at 615-242-2400 to arrange for an interview which may further expedite prosecution.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 50-1202.

Respectfully submitted,



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James R. Cartiglia



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Date